

159.5 Powers and duties.

The secretary of agriculture is the head of the department of agriculture and land stewardship which shall:

1. Carry out the objects for which the department is created and maintained.
2. Establish and maintain such divisions in the department as are necessary for the proper enforcement of the laws administered by it.
3. Consolidate the inspection service of the state in respect to the laws administered by the department so as to eliminate duplication of inspection insofar as practicable.
4. Maintain a climatology bureau which shall, in cooperation with the national weather service, collect and disseminate weather and phenological statistics and meteorological data, and promote knowledge of meteorology, phenology, and climatology of the state. The bureau shall be headed by the state climatologist who shall be appointed by the secretary of agriculture, and shall be an officer of the national weather service, if one is detailed for that purpose by the federal government.
5. Issue weekly weather and crop bulletins from April 1 to October 1 of each year, and edit and cause to be published monthly weather reports, containing meteorological matter in its relationship to agriculture, transportation, commerce, and the general public.
6. Cooperate with the United States department of agriculture statistical reporting service, to gather, compile, and publish statistical information concerning the condition and progress of crops, the production of crops, livestock, livestock products, poultry, and other such related agricultural statistics, as will generally promote knowledge of the agricultural industry in the state of Iowa. The statistics, when published, constitute official agricultural statistics for the state of Iowa.
7. Cooperate with the agricultural marketing service of the United States department of agriculture to collect and disseminate data and information relative to the market prices and conditions of agricultural products raised, produced, and handled in the state.
8. Inspect and supervise all meat, poultry, or dairy producing or distributing establishments including the furniture, fixtures, utensils, machinery, and other equipment so as to prevent the production, preparation, packing, storage, or transportation of meat, poultry, or dairy products in a manner detrimental to the character or quality of those products.
9. Approve all methods of probing for foreign material content of any type of grain.
10. Establish, publish, and enforce rules not inconsistent with law for the enforcement of the provisions of [subtitles 1 through 3 of this title](#), excluding [chapters 161A](#) and [161C](#), and for the enforcement of the various laws, the administration and supervision of which are imposed upon the department.
11. *a.* Establish a swine tuberculosis eradication program including but not limited to all of the following:
 - (1) The inspection of swine herds in this state when the department finds that an animal from a swine herd has, or is believed to have, tuberculosis.
 - (2) Ear tagging or otherwise physically marking all swine reacting positively to tests for tuberculosis.
 - (3) Condemning any swine which has tuberculosis.
 - (4) Depopulating any swine herd where tuberculosis is found to be generally present.
- b.* If the department finds that the source of the tuberculosis in a swine herd is from another species of animal, except bovine, located on or near the premises on which the affected swine herd is located, the department may destroy those animals and indemnify the owners of the condemned animals as provided in [chapter 163](#).
12. Create and maintain a division of soil conservation and water quality as provided in [chapter 161A](#). The division's director shall be appointed by the secretary and shall serve at the pleasure of the secretary. The director shall be the administrator responsible for carrying out the provisions of [chapters 207](#) and [208](#).
13. Establish and administer programs for the inspection and control of disease among livestock as defined in [section 717.1](#).
14. In the administration of programs relating to water quality improvement and

watershed improvements, cooperate with the department of natural resources in order to maximize the receipt of federal funds.

1. [C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §2590; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §159.5]
 2. [S13, §1657-g; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §2590; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §159.5]
 3. [C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §2590; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §159.5]
 4. [C97, §1677, 1678; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §2590; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §159.5]
 5. [C97, §1679, 1680; S13, §1679; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §2590; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §159.5]
 6. [C97, §1679; S13, §1679; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §2590; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §159.5]
 7. [C97, §1680; S13, §1363; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §2590; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §159.5]
 8. [C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §159.5]
 9. [S13, §2527-d5, 4527-m; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §2590; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §159.5]
 10. [C79, 81, S81, §159.5(10)]
 11. [S13, §2528-d10; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §2590; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, §159.5(10); C79, 81, S81, §159.5(11)]
 12. [C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §185.2; C71, 73, 75, 77, §159.5(11); C79, 81, S81, §159.5(12)]
 13. [C75, 77, §159.5(12); C79, 81, S81, §159.5(13); 81 Acts, ch 117, §1019; 82 Acts, ch 1104, §4]
- 83 Acts, ch 96, §60, 157, 159; 83 Acts, ch 123, §69, 209; 84 Acts, ch 1067, §22; 86 Acts, ch 1137, §1; 86 Acts, ch 1245, §607, 608; 87 Acts, ch 115, §26; 88 Acts, ch 1134, §32; 89 Acts, ch 83, §29; 89 Acts, ch 106, §1; 94 Acts, ch 1023, §14; 99 Acts, ch 96, §15; 2000 Acts, ch 1038, §1; 2003 Acts, ch 74, §1; 2006 Acts, ch 1030, §16; 2007 Acts, ch 211, §36; 2009 Acts, ch 41, §57; 2010 Acts, ch 1061, §35; 2012 Acts, ch 1095, §2 – 5; 2015 Acts, ch 103, §24; 2017 Acts, ch 159, §1; 2019 Acts, ch 128, §1; 2021 Acts, ch 149, §1; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §1; 2025 Acts, ch 156, §26

Referred to in §159.6, 159.7, 161A.3, 161A.4, 161C.1, 161D.1, 207.2, 208.2, 456.11, 460.101, 466B.41, 484B.10

Subsection 11, paragraph a, subparagraph (5) stricken